

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 have been examined. New claims 15-23 have been added to further describe the patentable features of the present invention. Claims 7-13 were previously withdrawn as being related to a non-elected invention.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the telephonic interview of January 7, 2008, during which claim 1 was discussed in view of Lenoir (US 6,741,737). Applicants set forth below arguments in response to the Examiner's position, which were similarly discussed in the interview. In particular, during the interview, the Examiner agreed that Lenoir does not disclose an electronic paper as recited in the claims.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 4 contains allowable subject matter. However, Applicants believe a broader scope of the invention is patentable in view of the art of record.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Lenoir (U.S. 6,741,737). Applicants traverse this rejection.

A. Claim 1

Applicants' invention related to an electronic paper reading device for reading contents which have been filled out onto electronic paper by hand, in a state where an electronic image has been recorded to the electronic paper in advance of being written to by hand, which are displayed on the electronic paper.

Turning to the cited art, Lenoir relates to extracting images from a digital image of a form containing handwritten entries, and more specifically to the art of segmenting the image. In

particular, Lenoir describes transferring handwritten data from paper forms containing collected information to data fields within a relational database by segmenting images of standard forms (col. 1, lines 29-44). Thus, once the image is segmented into image clips, the data can be packetized for transmission to a data entry operator who reads the image clip and then types in the information in response to a data entry prompt (col. 2, line 33 - col. 3, line 7). As a result, data entry workers are permitted to work at unsecured sites without jeopardizing the security of information in a scanned document image (col. 3, lines 23-25).

The Examiner contends that Lenoir teaches each feature of claim 1. However, claim 1 recites:

a reading component for optically reading an electronic paper which is filled out by hand, in a state in which a first image which has been recorded on the electronic paper in advance, being displayed;
a recognition component for recognizing the first image; and
an extracting component for extracting image data of a second image that represents contents with which the electronic paper is filled out by hand, based on a recognizing result of the recognition of the first image by the recognition component, from a result of the reading by the reading component.

Lenoir does not describe a reading component for optically reading an electronic paper, and in fact, fails to disclose electronic paper altogether. Lenoir merely discloses scanning a paper document and creating image clips by using a segmentation template corresponding to database fields according to a document form or type (e.g., police report, insurance claim report, auto accident form, or burglary form) (col. 2, lines 33-57; col. 4, lines 53-66; and col. 6, lines 50-58). Moreover, since Lenoir fails to disclose an electronic paper, Lenoir also fails to disclose a first image which is recorded on the electronic paper in advance of being written to by hand. That is, Lenoir does not disclose an electronic image which has been recorded to the electronic paper in advance of being written to by hand. In contrast, Lenoir merely discloses scanning the

entire document as one image, but never distinguishes between two images (i.e., one image recorded in advance and a second image representing contents filled out by hand).

In view of the above, the Examiner agreed in the aforementioned telephonic interview that Lenoir fails to disclose an electronic paper. Therefore, claim 1 would not have been anticipated by Lenoir because Lenoir fails to disclose each and every feature of claim 1.

B. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 14

Applicants submit that claims 2, 3 and 5 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 2.

Claim 14 includes analogous, though not necessarily coextensive features, and therefore, claim 14 is patentable for the reasons discussed for claim 1.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Lenoir in view of Matsumoto (U.S. 5,038,218). However, Matsumoto fails to correct the deficiencies of Lenoir in view of claim 1. Therefore, Lenoir, alone or in combination with Matsumoto, fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 6 in view of claims 1 and 5. Thus, claim 6 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

III. New claims

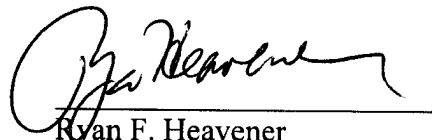
By this Amendment, Applicants have added new claims 15-23 to further define the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit claims 15-23 recite additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Ryan F. Heavener
Registration No. 61,512

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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